THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN ARCHITECTS

District News

Executive Board Meetings

Historic American Buildings Survey

Employment Committee Statement

A. I. A. Convention Report

How She Got Her Architect

Here and There

Vol. 2 *June 1934* *No. 6*

TO THE ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Your Editor urges each of you to make a supreme effort to have district news in our office by the twentieth of each month.

Articles of interest to your districts will be of state wide interest. Persuade your members to contribute articles concerning your local problems.

Next month we are inaugurating a question box. Send us your problems and queries. All districts *should* be in print each month.

THE EDITOR.

THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
THE · STATE · ASSOCIATION · OF · WISCONSIN · ARCHITECTS

Vol. II, No. 6 *An Organization Promoting the Best Interests of the Profession by United Action* JUNE, 1934

News From the Disricts

[No News has been received from the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, or Sixth Districts.]

Seventh District State Association of Architects

The Seventh District of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects held its regular meeting May 15, in Mitzi's club. Thirty-seven members and three guests attended the meeting and luncheon.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Urban Peacock reported that the Mayor's advisory council went on record as favoring changing the zoning ordinance on Prospect ave. Peter Brust suggested that a committee be appointed to study the Prospect avenue zoning.

Mr. Redden announced the picnic committee as follows:

Arthur H. Kienapple, chairman
George Spinti
Urban Peacock
Gilbert Grunwald
Herb. Ebling

Mr. Spinti outlined the program for the district through the Summer as follows: Regular Meeting in June; picnic in July; Annual meeting in September.

The members had the pleasure of hearing two guest speakers. Harry Koerble, Secretary of the Milwaukee Lumberman's club spoke on the new grading of lumber and offered to assist the architects with their specifications.

Senator Ben Gettleman was the second speaker. He gave his usual rousing talk, promising the architects his support in the campaign for licensing next Fall.

The meeting adjourned.

Eighth District Members Active — Extensive Educational Campaign Reported by Racine Group.

In response to President Leo A. Brielmeier's call members of the eighth district undertook an organized survey of school buildings in their territory, planned by the state department of education. Practically all the schools so planned in the district were visited and examined by members. Many interesting things were uncovered on this tour of inspection which were put into reports and forwarded to Mr. Brielmeier's office.

The Racine members of the Eighth district have been particularly active during the winter months, meeting on an average of twice a month. During the past two months these men have been conducting an educational campaign. It was the concensus of opinion of the Racine architects that the general public was not at all familiar with the extent and character of the services rendered by an architect to his client. It was to familiarize the man in the street with the functions of the profession that this campaign was started. A series of twelve newspaper articles were prepared covering every phase of a building operation and showing just how the architect worked and co-operated with the owner. These articles appeared weekly in the Sunday paper and are said to have attracted widespread interest.

The second phase of this campaign is under way at this writing. The Racine group, co-operating splendidly, produced the designs for a minimum house. With this house as a nucleus an attractive window display of drawings, models, specifications and blueprints was prepared showing prospective clients the advantages of employing an architect, and also showing to them in a visual manner just what services were rendered for the fee.

The organization of a builders congress also has been undertaken by the Racine group. There has been a need for some time for an organization to foster fairer methods of competition and to remedy certain existing faults. The Racine architects took the initial step towards effecting an organization by calling a meeting at which was present representatives from the various builders trades organizations and also material supply dealers. A tentative form of a council has been arrived at and plans are rapidly being completed towards forming a permanent organization.

In several counties of the eighth district there have been more than a few instances of violation of the registration law. Architects from other states have been entering into active and serious competition with local men, and as a result many sizeable jobs have been lost to these outsiders, who in most cases hold no Wisconsin license. Eighth District members have already taken steps to curb this practice. They have obtained affidavits and depositions which were forwarded to the state board with the intent that the board take action against these men coming in from other states, calling themselves architects without the legal right to use the title.

SUMNER COLEMAN RUSSELL
Racine Secretary 8th Dist.

JUNE CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 31—
Postponed meeting of Wisconsin Chapter, A. I. A., City Club, Milwaukee, 12:15 P. M.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14—
Meeting of Board of Directors of Seventh District, Builders Club, Milwaukee, 4:00 P. M.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15—
Meeting of State Executive Board, City Club, Milwaukee, 12:15 P. M.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19—
Monthly Meeting—District No. 7, Mitzi Club, 920 Winnebago St., 12:15 P. M.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28—
Meeting of Madison Chapter, A. I. A., Madison, Wisconsin.

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NOTES ON THE MAY MEETINGS OF THE

STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD

WM. G. HERBST, Secretary

There were two meetings of the executive board during the month of May. The first meeting occurred on Friday, May 11, at the City club and the meeting was called to order at 1:00, President Brielmaier presiding.

Present at the meeting were Leo A. Brielmaier, Edgar Berners, T. L. Eschweiler, Henry Auler, Leigh Hunt, Henry Foeller, Fitzhugh Scott, Arthur Seidenschwartz, William Redden, William G. Herbst. Peter Brust, A. C. Eschweiler, Jr., Edgar A. Stubenrauch, Roger C. Kirchhoff, Frank Riley, were represented by proxy. Bruce Uthus was absent. Thomas L. Rose was a guest at the meeting. A motion was carried urging as many of the members of the executive board as possible to be guests of the various districts at their monthly meetings. The board believes that its members can explain to the districts the work which is being done for them. This motion carries with it the request that the districts issue an invitation to the members of the executive board and to advise the chairman of the publicity committee, Leigh Hunt, of the dates of their meetings, so that arrangements can be made to carry out this resolution. The practice committee made a report of its activities for the month.

President Brielmaier read communications with reference to non-resident, non-licensed architects, practicing within the boundaries of the State of Wisconsin. These men were referred to the practice committee for investigation. The president also read a letter to Mr. Ditchey, the president of the Michigan Society of Architects, on the matter of the City of Detroit's new building code.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 P. M. and this adjournment made it necessary for the board to postpone many more matters of importance, which will be taken up at the next meeting.

A special meeting of the executive board was held at 12:15 at the City Club on May 23.

Special meeting of the state board was called to order at 12:15 May 23. Present were Peter Brust, Fitzhugh Scott, Leo A. Brielmaier, Wm. A. Herbst, Wm. Redden, Leigh Hunt, Arthur Seidenschwartz, Edgar Stubenrauch and Edgar Berners. Proxies were received from Theodore L. Eschweiler, Henry Foeller and Roger Kirchhoff. Bruce Uthus, Frank Riley, A. C. Eschweiler and Henry Auler were absent.

Three guests were present, Gennet De Gelleke, T. L. Rose and Alex C. Eschweiler.

A three hour discussion on the preliminary report of the Wisconsin Architects Code consumed most of the afternoon. The report of the audit of the architectural division of the Milwaukee school board was discussed and members of the seventh district are to discuss its contents at the May 24 meeting of the above directors.

That portion of A. C. Eschweiler Jr's. letter referring to the need of the state association becoming a corporate member of the American Institute of Architects was discussed and referred to a committee.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p. m.

State Association of Northern California Activities

The May bulletin of the northern section of the State Association of California Architects, published in San Francisco, is very interesting. It contains articles on Recovery, Federal Savings and Loan Association, State Legislation, Contract Documents, State Emergency Relief Association, San Francisco District News, American Institute of Architects Convention, and a very complete report of the Professional Betterment Committee of their association, particularly referring to The Standard documents.

It appears that the problems in Northern California are much like ours in Wisconsin, and they are actively working towards improvement of the architectural profession in their state.

THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Confronted with the unemployment of the architects in the country, the Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes, conceived the idea of creating employment for 1000 architects on the Historical American Buildings survey. This project came under the Civil works program and National Advisory committee of appointment to cooperate in making of plans and conducting of survey. A committee of national importance in Civic work was appointed and members of the architectural profession throughout the American Institute of Architects were drafted to assist.

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects was requested to recommend an architect to head the work in Wisconsin. Alex C. Guth was recommended by the board, and his selection was confirmed through the Department of Interior in Washington. A certain quota of architects was assigned to each state, and Wisconsin was allotted 24 who were appointed by the district officer. The advisory group appointed by the Wisconsin chapter of American Institute of Architect, consists of John C. Schaefer, superintendent of the State Historical Society; John G. Gregory, veteran editor and historian of Milwaukee; Frank Riley, architect of Madison; Henry A. Fuller, architect of Green Bay, and A. C. Eschweiler, architect of Milwaukee. This committee served as an advisory group to the district officer.

Mr. Guth, district officer, is well qualified to serve in this project. He has been interested for years in the historical architecture of the state, and with the assistance of the State Historical Society at Madison, and the advisory group, a correspondence list of buildings was prepared for consideration and submitted to Washington for approval.

Under the guidance of Mr. Guth were nine squads. They were supplied with field books and were ordered to measure and make record of the buildings assigned to them. From these field notes the squad leaders and their assistants prepared final drawings on sheets furnished by the government. These drawings in all cases, contained floor plans, elevation scale details and full size profile, and the care with which they were drawn and the high standard of work which was done, was a credit to the profession in Wisconsin. Mr. Guth is untiring in his efforts to see that the final sets of drawings, if possible, be sent to Washington, and we think that he is deserving of unlimited praise for his efforts.

Keen competition developed between the various squads and they produced some elegant drawings. The squad captains and their assistants are as follows: from Milwaukee: E. Allan Kiely, squad leader, Howard Schutz, Roman Rudolph; Alexander H. Bauer, squad leader, Ralph Schaefer, Roland Adams; Carl Eschweiler, squad leader, Richard Perrin, Herbert Bradley; Hugo Logemann, squad leader, Eugene Eble, Eugene Phillips; Carl Ringer, Jr., squad leader, Clarence W. Jahn, Marcel Lauer. Green Bay: W. A. Oppenhamer, squad leader, Louis D. Vanden Busch, Harry W. Williams; Noel Ross Safford, squad leader, Clarence O. Jahn, Carlton O. Bender. Appleton: Raymond N. LeVee, squad leader, Maurey Lee Allen.

Many amusing incidents took place, according to Mr. Guth. Neighbors became jealous because their houses were not being measured as well as their neighbors'. Others were inclined to be skeptical about the work to be done. Occasionally the owners or occupants had to be persuaded before work could be done, others were very gracious and welcomed the architects into their homes. All in all, fine cooperation was given by the tenants.

To go into detail about the wonderful wood, split lath, spring dance floors, blacksmith hardware, built-in ovens, bullet-proof walls, hand-blown glass.

Photographs were part of the record required by the government, and these in most cases, were taken by the squad captains. In addition to the photographs and drawings, the historical story accompanied each set based upon old records and interviews. All of the buildings measured were built prior to the Civil war, with the exception of the covered bridge at Cedarburg.

One of the outstanding buildings was the Iowa county courthouse. A variety of structures were selected by the officials in Washington and the following gives the complete list of buildings the location and the date of their erection.

Mr. Guth's work has been well done. The squad captains and their assistants have done their work unusually well and the entire project has revived an interest in the historical buildings of our state.

Hunt House	Racine	Built in Early 1840's
Robert Dunkel Inn	Waukesha	Built in Early 1840's
Moravian Church	Green Bay	Built in 1851
Mitchell-Roundtree House	Platteville	Built in 1837
Christian Turck House	Kirchhayn	Built in late 1830's
Fort Howard Hospital	Green Bay	Built in 1816
William T. Bonniwell House	Wauwatosa Hwy. between Thiensville and Cedarbury	Built in late 1830's
First Presbyterian Church	Racine	Built in 1851
Alexander Stewart House	Milwaukee	Built in 1840
St. Peter's Church	Milwaukee	Built in 1839
Charles Miller House	Menominee Falls	Built in 1858
Covered Bridge	Cedarburg	Built in 1876
Grignon House	Kaukauna	Built in 1838
Cornish Miner's Houses	Mineral Point	Built in 1828 and on
Iowa County Courthouse	Dodgeville	Built in 1858
Jesse Smith Cobblestone Inn	Mukwonago	Built in 1848
Brisbois House	Prairie du Chien	Built in 1815
Merton Baptist Church	Merton	Built in early 1840's
Wilcos House	Green Bay	Built in 1838
Plowman House	Mineral Point	Built in 1842
Concordia Mills	Hamilton	Built in 1853

Statement By the Employment Committee of the Seventh District

GILBERT O. GRUNWALD

Among the unsolved problems of the present time, the problem concerning employment must still be classified as one of the first rank. Especially is this condition in the architectural profession materially unchanged, most attempts to alleviate this burden having proven unsuccessful. Contrary to all hopes and expectations, the private construction industry had not developed in a large enough measure so that it could absorb the members of our profession who had fortunately found employment in the recent C. W. A. projects, and as a result the great majority of this group has been unemployed since the cessation of these projects.

The re-employment of such architects is the problem which the employment committee has for the last months attempted to solve. The only apparent hope of unemployment relief which would be of benefit to the greatest number of our profession is at the present time, without a doubt, the federal, state or locally financed relief program. The administration's progress in placing such a program into actual operation has been slow, since the same is being carefully and deliberately planned. It is due to this fact that the employment committee has not been able to progress as it had hoped to do. By no means, however, has this committee been inactive and idle. Project directors of contemplated work, officials in administrative capacities and other persons associated with such programs have been interviewed by members of this committee and to them were presented the problems of the profession. All new developments were carefully noted and investigated.

Unfortunately, we are told by members of the administrative group, immediate employment for the largest numbers of our profession will be impossible due to the present lack of funds which necessarily would be required. Individuals on the present county relief list, or such who qualify and register for the same, are to be given the first consideration. The border line cases among us will be compelled to await future plans and programs, and are for the present, most assuredly, to be classed as the "Forgotten Architect."

At a recent meeting of the employment committee it was considered advisable and very necessary to ascertain the actual and definite condition of employment as the same exists in our District 7. With this objective in mind, a survey by means of a return post card questionnaire was conducted, by means of which the following data was received:

Total replies received to date	68
No Employment	56
Temporary Employment	3
Permanent Employment and Private Practice	8

It is seen, therefore, that the above returns indicate an unemployment of nearly 83% of the number of returned replies.

The committee regrets exceedingly that their effort did not receive the whole-hearted co-operation which had been expected. The number of cards returned and properly marked was less than 50% of the total cards sent to the members. This, we thought, did not indicate the co-operation which a survey of such spirit and intention should receive, since the definite results thus obtained would be a most convincing argument and exhibit which we as a district could present into the hands of administrations in charge of employment wherein we testify to and prove the dire want and need of the profession of architecture in our locality. *We would therefore earnestly urge all members who have failed to return their card to do so immediately*, and to state thereon whether they are at present employed or not.

The Employment Committee of this District 7 would, furthermore, urge all other districts embodied in our association, to conduct a similar survey and thereby it would be possible to determine and establish a true condition as the same exists in the entire state membership.

While we are perusing this report let us, however, not lose sight of the fact that any and all employment efforts of this nature sponsored by this committee and proving successful would and could but lead only to temporary employment and remedy the immediate unfortunate condition. By no means can it insure definite employment.

We, as a committee, are fully conscious of much architectural work which, at the present time, is not being executed by the profession. The profession at large must take full cognizance of this fact since, without the shadow of a doubt, this work does rightfully belong to such who have devoted years of study and have been required to pass a state examination before being permitted to practice such as is demanded of the architect. The individual members of this district, as well as the individual members of our other districts are fully and should be fully aware of such conditions as they exist in their midst.

Is the present time, as we consider and attempt to remedy temporarily the present employment situation, not an opportune time in which to also attempt, at least, to right and to curb such unjust practices which today unrightfully prevent us from making an honest livelihood by means of our profession? Should not the solution of such a problem which would promise more steady employment, be equally considered with that problem which would result in only temporary employment?

Let us, to this end, employ the unity and the strength of a State Association, to the permanent welfare and good of its members. Let each and every member resolve to offer a small portion of his time in the interest of his chosen profession by regular attendance at the business meetings. Let us there discuss our problems and jointly unite in and support any action which may improve the standard of the profession of architecture in this State of Wisconsin.

New Legislative Committee Appointed for the 7th District

The Board of the 7th District has appointed a legislative committee. Mark Pfaller is chairman. The other members are Edwin O. Kuenzli, Herbert L. Ebling, Albert J. Schutte, Walter Memler and Herbert W. Tullgren. The committee's first work will be a survey and study of the Architect's License Law.

By fairness we establish the confidence that wins cooperation.

•

Much of the president's time is spent in disapproving unwise suggestions for spending the money of the country.

•

To get ahead and keep ahead, do each task as though you were going to be judged by that alone—make each job your best job.

•

STICK TO THE FIGHT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.
Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won if he'd stuck it out.
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow—
You may succeed with another blow.
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.
Success is failure turned inside out—
The silver tint of the clouds in doubt.
And you never can tell how close you are—
It may be near when it seems afar:
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit—
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

—*Author not known.*

State-Wide Outing in July

The special outing committee of the 7th District is planning a state-wide outing in the month of July. The July issue of the Wisconsin Architect will contain full information as to the location and date, and other details. The chairman of the Outing committee is Arthur H. Kienappel; the other members of the committee include George Spinti, Gilbert O. Grunwald, Herbert L. Ebling, Urban Peacock, and John P. Bruecker.

A. C. Eschweiler, Jr., Reports the A. I. A. Convention

We have just received a letter from A. C. Eschweiler, Jr., from Washington, D. C., written at the close of the convention of the American Institute of Architects, held on May 16, 17 and 18. He attended the convention as a delegate.

As the institute is a national organization, the State Societies are naturally interested in its activities. 200 delegates with an additional 48 proxy votes indicated a very good attendance at the convention. Gerrit J. De Gelleke was elected regional director without any opposition, and all other members of the slate that were nominated were elected. Mr. Eschweiler stated that two state associations now hold corporate membership in the institute, California and Michigan, and that Ohio and Pennsylvania are expected to join shortly, and that in his opinion serious consideration should be given by the Wisconsin association to joining the Institute before the next convention.

The delegates from the Wisconsin chapter, invited the Institute to hold its 1935 convention in Milwaukee, and Mr. Eschweiler believes that the board of directors of the institute will accept their invitation. This convention would be a wonderful thing for the architects of the State of Wisconsin and every effort should be made to make this the convention city for the Institute in 1935.

Mr. Eschweiler talked with William Stanley Parker, the chairman of the A. I. A. Architects Code committee. Mr. Parker stated that the approval of the administrator and the signature of the President will take place in a very short time. A standard form of accounting for architects developed by the accounting committee of the institute, was approved by the convention and it is believed that this system will be very popular with the architects all over the country, as it is eliminating guess work as to whether a job is done for profit or a loss. Louis Simon, supervising architect of the Treasury, assured the convention of the cooperation of the Treasury department, by awarding architectural contracts for federal buildings to private architects wherever possible and that adequate fees will be paid for this work.

At the Friday evening session, Horace H. Russell, general counsel of Federal Home Loan Bank board, said that the Board was contemplating the loaning of two-hundred million dollars to home owners whose mortgages they hold, which will eventually include 700,000 homes. Two - hundred thousand homes are included at the present. This money is for improvements, additions and modernization. They will employ architects upon a fee basis for carrying on this work. This certainly is of interest to all of us in Wisconsin.

Mr. Ostburg, architect of Stockholm, Sweden, was presented with the institute's Gold Medal by President Roosevelt at the Whitehouse on Wednesday afternoon, May 16. Mr. Eschweiler writes that the ceremony was very dignified and impressive, and that our President, as usual, charmed everyone.

MAY MEETING OF WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF A. I. A. POSTPONED

As the annual convention of the American Institute of Architects was held on the 16th, 17th and 18th of May, in Washington, the regular State monthly meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter was postponed in order that the reports of the delegates could be given to the Chapter.

The postponed meeting will be held on May 31st at 12:15 at the City club, at which time nominations to fill two vacancies on the Executive Committee will be made.

The Annual meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter will be held on June 19th at the Colony Inn at 6:00 P. M. It will be a dinner meeting. Two members of the Executive Committee and the officers for the following year are to be elected. A fine program has been arranged. Regular announcements will be mailed by the secretary to the chapter members.

This and That

As we go to press we have the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, on the need for aid for construction industry. In his statement he mentions that five million men were directly employed in the Construction industry and many millions more, indirectly.

It is over a year since Congress passed legislation to stimulate Building construction, but very little has actually been consummated excepting some projects which have been given Federal Aid. Quite naturally private construction has lagged and this is due, as we all know, to the great number of vacancies and lack of business activity.

The Federal Code for the Construction industry has been approved and signed by the President.

The American Institute of Architects, representing our profession nationally, is one of the sponsors of this code, but to date the proposed code covering the Architect profession, has not been approved. Most states are drafting their own codes, including a code for Architects.

There has been much discussion on the question of whether Architects as a profession should be a part of the State Codes or whether they should be independent. Many arguments on both sides are taking place, but only time will tell us what is best for the profession.

General Hugh S. Johnson has terminated the price fixing of Seven codes. This seems to be the forerunner of the Government's attitude on price fixing, and would rather indicate that no national codes establishing cost of service, or price of goods, will be upheld. The proposed codes of the construction industry have many fine points. The outstanding in our opinion is the restriction of each branch to work in their division.

On Exhibition

The drawings prepared by the architects throughout the country for the Historical Architectural Buildings Survey will be on exhibition at The Century of Progress in the Department of the Interior Exhibit. The Congressional Library in Washington also has an exhibit of some of the drawings. This is a fine opportunity for the architects of Wisconsin to examine the fine work done by our architects and their assistants who were engaged in this project. We are in receipt of a letter from The Public Works of Art Department in Washington in which it is stated that the good work of preserving accurate records of old architectural work was to be continued in some form. The history of any country can be read in the story of its architectural works. How we eat, sleep and work varies as we refine our civilization, but we never tire of reading of what our forefathers have done before us.

EDITOR.

Books

In these days many architects have failed to renew their subscriptions to Architectural and Art magazines.

New books so necessary to our profession are almost out of the question as we know.

What is the first thought under these conditions? Our Public Libraries, of course.

The Milwaukee Public Library through the Budget Bureau has been forced to make cuts and unfortunately Architectural, Engineering, and Art books and magazines are on the list of publications affected.

Architects in the various districts of the State Society of Wisconsin Architects should visit their Public Libraries and investigate this situation. If the usefulness of your local library is impaired by forced economy insist that it be rectified.

In times like these we have more time to read (as the records of the libraries show) and ART ALONE ENDURES should be the slogan for our profession when demanding that our libraries be kept up to normal during this depression.

EDITOR.

Money and the Architects

The 1933 Convention held in Oshkosh in October of that year adopted a schedule of Proper minimum charges and Professional Practice. Copies of this schedule were mailed gratis to all resident architects after its adoption.

An architect is not over-paid if he receives fees for complete architectural services in accordance with this schedule.

Making free sketches is a gamble and reducing fees too low is ruinous: both are a relic of the past. The proposed codes for Architects, both Federal and State, all insist that no work be done below cost. If all of us were to install an accounting system showing our actual cost, it would not be long before the reasonableness of the recommended schedule of charges would be apparent, our bank account swelled and our profession looked upon with greater respect. The American Institute of Architects will shortly publish a standard accounting system which can be used by individuals, partnerships, and corporations.

EDITOR.

Work for Private Architects

Word has come from Washington that all building work formerly done under the direction of the treasury department is being handled by the PROCUREMENT DIVISION.

Mr. Reynolds, representing Admiral Peeples, the director, stated in an address to the convention of the American Institute of Architects held in Washington in May that all architectural projects of more than sixty thousand dollars would be given to private architects. Their fees were to be based on the estimated cost, and this sum to be paid to the architect whether the building costs more or less than the appropriation.

It seems that when prices dropped so much in 1932 many architects had been paid fees which exceeded the actual cost and required a refund in many cases. This was unfair to the profession. It is believed also that a fixed fee would tend to keep the cost of the completed building down as the architects have no interest in the total sum appropriated for a building. Engineers of recognized ability must be engaged by the architects.

A sliding scale of fees was recommended. Buildings costing one hundred thousand dollars or less might include a fee of six per cent and gradually be reduced as the cost of the project increases. Much better knowledge of what constitutes the services of our architects is understood by official Washington than in the past.

All of this indicates that the government is trying to help our profession in re-establishing itself.

EDITOR.

HOW SHE GOT HER ARCHITECT

by LEIGH HUNT

Mr. and Mrs. X had just moved into their new home. It was a well built house, cleverly planned, artistic, and its cost was obviously within the range of the average home-owner.

Friends, acquaintances, curiosity seekers, came to call. They were generous with their praise. Enthusiastic.

Who built it? they wanted to know.

Mrs. X told them that an architect by the name of Mr. Dash had planned, designed and supervised its building.

Then they asked where she found him and how she happened to select him.

Let her tell you how she chose her architect.

"First of all I went to my banker telling him I wanted to build a house. He advised having an architect. I asked that he recommend one. Instead of one name he gave me several. Also a list of reliable contractors.

"Rather than to choose the name of one architect in the dark, so to speak, it occurred to me that it might be wise to interview the contractors. I would get their viewpoints. I would find whom they liked best to work with, and why. Whom they considered the most thorough, the most reliable, the most capable. I would ask who had the fewest extras and whose plans were most complete. From the replies of these many contractors I would draw my own conclusions. Make my own deductions.

"That was what I did. The long list of architects given me by my banker, dwindled to six.

"I at once got in touch with the six architects.

"I told them how much money I had to spend and approximately the size of the house I desired. Last, I asked them for a list of their clients for whom they had built houses such as I was in need of.

"I received very willing and co-perative responses from the six architects. I visited their houses, interviewed their clients, and my list dwindled to three architects.

"I called upon these three. They showed me photographs, plans, working drawings. At length I chose one architect because I had the most confidence in him and felt that he of all of the group could best satisfy my needs.

"His houses were complete. So were his plans. He asked me not how much money I had to spend for the house but how much money I had to cover every necessary item from landscaping to the drapes at my windows and the tubs in my laundry.

"He gave me a preliminary sketch. Mr. X and I went over it. He revised it the second time, then the third until we finally approved.

"When we engaged him he signed a contract. It was a business proposition. That gave me confidence. When there was to be an extra we approved it before it was ordered.

"Each month we were given a statement which protected us in every way, and when the house was done no extras were charged and no change made for which we had not signed.

"He worked with our decorator and landscape gardener. He anticipated our wants. It is my opinion that he budgeted and included in the cost many things which we did not know had to be furnished and would not have thought of.

"After the house was finished I said how simple it all had been. Mr. X said that is true of any structure if the building of it is gone about with the same procedure. When choosing an architect you must have confidence in him and know that he is familiar with his commission.

"Now that our house is finished I have a friend who wants to build. She feared that she had so little money to spend that an architect would not be interested in her project. When I mentioned this to my architect he said that a house built by an architect and carefully planned amounts to less than that planned by a contractor builder. You can get only a dollar's worth for a dollar no matter to whom you may go."

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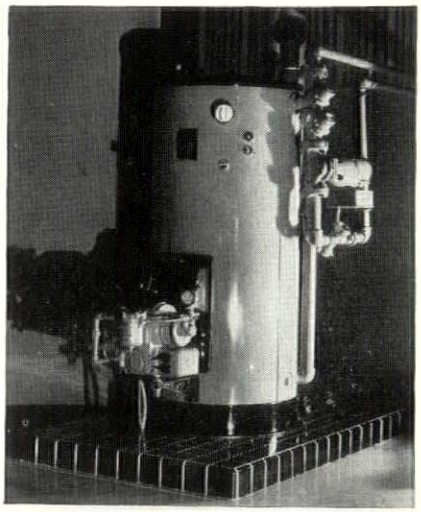

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PROVIDENCE CLUB SPEAKS OUT

A letter sent by the Providence Architectural Club to the Governor of Rhode Island and to the Mayors of the cities of that state may be of interest. It reads as follows:—

"Believing

"1 — That Public Buildings should serve utilitarian purposes and should also serve as models and inspiration for improving architecture throughout the State of Rhode Island.

"2—That all buildings erected by the State of Rhode Island and the various cities should be designed by the best architectural talent available, should be planned by local architects and engineers and, when feasible, make use of local materials.

"3—That governmental departmental procedure and such laws as may be necessary, should be changed to allow the retaining of local architects and engineers in the preparation of both preliminary and final plans.

"4—That maintaining of architectural offices by the State and various cities to design public buildings is fundamentally wrong in principle, because it places the State and muncipal governments in direct competition with private business.

"5—That giving any such work to out-of-state architects works an unnecessary hardship upon local men who are taxpayers in the several cities.

"6—That the State and city architectural offices in doing CWA work at a lower rate of wage to their draftsmen than they would receive from private firms is in direct violation of the intent and purpose of the PWA.

"Therefore the Providence Architectural Club Respectfully Requests

"1—That the State of Rhode Island and the various cities refrain from maintaining offices to design public buildings in direct competition with the private business of its citizens.

"2—That accredited private architects be employed by the State of Rhode Island and the various cities to design, plan and supervise all public buildings.

"3—That such changes be made in existing laws as may be necessary to accomplish the above.

"4—That, if the above recommendations are adopted, the State and the various municipalities would profit to the extent of getting more capable architectural service for the money spent, the return to normalcy would be helped, in that the Architects' offices would function once more, the draftsmen would be back at work in the offices where they belong and a great injustice would have been righted.

"5—That you do all that is in your power to right the conditions as outlined."

PENCIL POINTS

Economics is heavy with ugly facts.

•

One is usually conservative in the subject about which he knows most.

•

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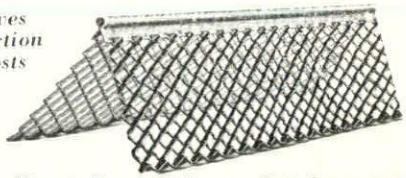

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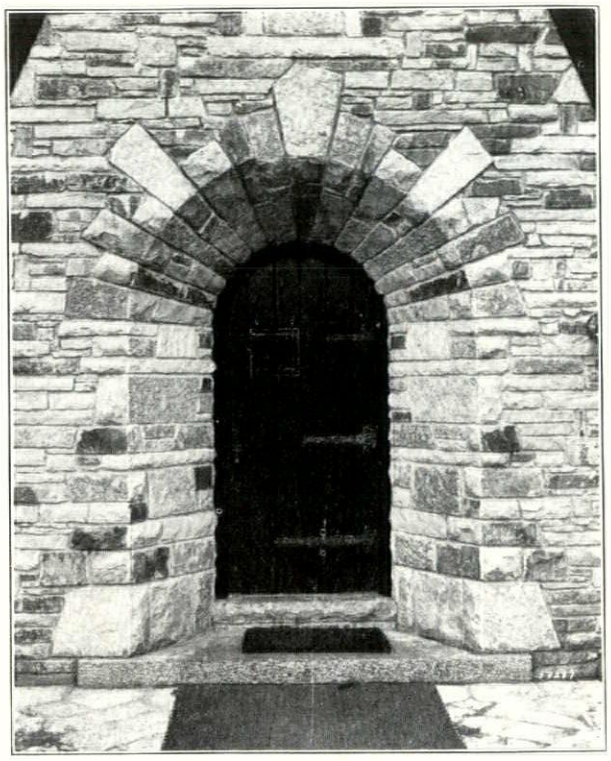

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